New York's 9-Hour Drama

Another Skyjacker Shot

NEW YORK — (UPI) — A shady adventurer with history of mental illness pulled a gun from an arm cast yesterday to hijack a TWA jetliner and hold it for nine hours until he was shot by an FBI agent posing as a member of the crew.

The hijacker, identified as Garrett Brock Trapnell, 34, of Miami, had demanded to be flown from Kennedy International Airport to Dallas to pick up a prisoner in the county jail there and then on to Europe.

Poised gun in hand at the top of the boarding ramp as he waited for a fresh TWA crew to climb to the cockpit, Trapnell relaxed his guard for a moment.

An FBI marksman masquerading as a crew member fired two shots, hitting Trapnell in the left shoulder and arm and ending the nine-hour seige.

He was the second hijacker shot in three days. The first was slain Thursday at the Poughkeepsie, N.Y. airport after he tried to flee with a $200,000 ransom.

Record

Trapnell, a native of Waltham, Mass., who has faced criminal charges in at least three states, Canada and the Bahamas and has twice excaped from mental institutions, commandeered the TWA jetliner shortly after 2 a.m. PST as it flew over the Midwest.

There were 94 passengers and a crew of seven aboard the big red, white and silver plane, on a flight from Los Angeles to New York.

The hijacker let the passengers off at Kennedy but held the crew at gunpoint.

At mid-morning he forced the pilot to take off and circle the airport for an hour, apparently because he was afraid an FBI agent stationed under the plane's nose would try to board.

Angela Davis

Trapnell talked almost constantly by long distance telephone to a psychiatrist in Dallas and two lawyers in Miami.

He demanded Angela Davis' release from prison, a personal talk with President Nixon and $300,000.

He directed one of the lawyers, Nathaniel L. Barone Jr., to fly from Miami to Dallas, then to Kennedy and then refused to see him when he landed at Kennedy.

But the articulate Trapnell, described by authorities as a "James Bond type" with homicidal tendencies, concentrated his efforts on getting George Anthony Padilla, 24, of Union City, N.J., out of the county jail in Dallas.

The connection between Trapnell and Padilla was not immediately known.

Padilla is charged with armed robbery in Dallas but also is wanted in Miami, where Trapnell lives, for a probation violation and in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., for another robbery, Dallas authorities said.

Psychiatrist

Trapnell maintained an almost continuous telephone conversation after landing at Kennedy with Dr. David G. Hubbard, a Dallas psychiatrist who has written a book about what motivates airplane hijackers. Hubbard had treated Trapnell two years ago.

He demanded that Padilla be brought to Hubbard's Dallas office so he could talk to the prisoner. Trapnell was told Padilla had arrived but could not come to the phone immediately because he was "real scared."

"I'm more scared than he is," Trapnell replied. "Put him on the phone."

Trapnell said he wanted

—Turn to Page 14, Col. 1

GARRETT TRAPNELL — CAPTURED SKYJACKER
Photo after he escaped from hospital in 1971
—AP Photo

☆☆☆☆ Section A Page 13
January 30, 1972
S. F. Sunday Examiner
& Chronicle

—From Page 1

Padilla to board the next plane to New York. "I want you on that plane. If they don't put you on that plane I want to know about it," Trapnell said.

The FBI got its chance when Trapnell decided he wanted to fly to Dallas to pick up Padilla.

He agreed to let TWA relieve the crew, which had been on duty for 12 hours, with a fresh crew of three men and one woman stewardess.

The new pilot was Capt. Richard Hastings, 48, of Wantagh, N.Y., who had flown the TWA jetliner hijacked from California to Rome Oct. 31, 1969, by Marine Rafael Minichiello.

Hastings said later he was called into the case an hour after the hijacking began in order to work with TWA and federal officials on a plan to subdue Trapnell.

Hastings refused to describe the plan.

The pilot's two fellow officers both were FBI agents, one of them a qualified pilot who could act as co-pilot if it were necessary to take off.

Trapnell stood at the top of the boarding ramp, gun in hand, as the replacement crew arrived.

FBI Man Fires

He lowered the pistol momentarily and one of the FBI men fired twice, wounding the hijacker in the left hand and shoulder.

The episode was the latest in a career which allegedly included a series of bank robberies and a kidnaping in Canada, a $100,000 jewel robbery in Freeport where Trapnell allegedly flew in a plane he stole in California and ditched in Florida, and recent litigation over a $300,000 yacht which Trapnell testified he had paid for with $100 bills given him by the operator of a Mexican brothel.

Trapnell was twice confined to mental institutions and twice escaped, authorities said. Charges in the Bahamas jewel robbery and Canadian bank robberies were dismissed on grounds he was not mentally competent.